

## **Workplace Traffic Safety**

***This is Road-Safe Workplace, an electronic newsletter about workplace traffic safety from the Vermont Department of Labor because the number one cause of death and injury in the workplace are traffic crashes.***

***Road-Safe Workplace has been created to distribute statistics, facts, and other materials to help employers create, maintain and improve their workplace traffic safety programs. Please use this information in your company newsletters, bulletin boards, or employee e-mail memos. Your thoughts and comments are always welcome.***

***However, if you do not wish to receive Road-Safe Workplace, please reply with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line.***



### **Workplace Traffic Safety Program Created**

Vermont's Commissioner of Labor, Patricia McDonald, has announced that a workplace traffic safety program, an outreach program to Vermont employers about the benefits of traffic safety in the workplace, has been created in the Vermont Department of Labor.

Citing U.S. Department of Labor statistics showing that the number one cause of death and injury in the workplace are traffic crashes, Commissioner McDonald said, "This program will speak to that issue by advising Vermont employers that workplace traffic safety is just as vital to their bottom line as traditional, inside-the-building workplace safety."

The new program, located in the Workers' Compensation and Safety Division of the Department of Labor, will create partnerships with other state agencies and private employer groups to distribute information and traffic safety materials to Vermont employers. Commissioner McDonald also said regional conferences, organized through local employer groups will enhance program efforts to meet employer traffic safety needs. She said it is critical that employers know that traffic crashes are often the hidden cost of doing business.

"Businesses incur enormous costs from traffic crashes and increased medical costs," she noted. "We want to help businesses reduce the cost of doing business with effective traffic safety programs."

Employers interested in more information should contact:

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## Employer Guidebook to Reduce Traffic Crashes

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (NETS) have joined forces to create the 32-page ***Guidelines for Employers to Reduce Motor Vehicle Crashes***. The guidebook offers useful information to help employers design an effective driver safety program in their workplace. It features a 10-step program outlining what an employer can do to improve traffic safety performance and minimize the risk of motor vehicle crashes. The document includes success stories from employers who have benefited from effective driver safety programs. For more information, visit:

[http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=NEWS\\_RELEASE&p\\_id=11845](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASE&p_id=11845)

The booklet is available to employers from:

[njames@labor.state.vt.us](mailto:njames@labor.state.vt.us). Ask for the ***Guidelines for Employers to Reduce Motor Vehicle Crashes***. The booklet will be sent in the mail, so be sure to include your mailing address.

## Vermont Construction Firm Highlighted in New Workplace Traffic Safety Guidebook

Pike Industries, of Barre, Vermont, is one of only four firms across the country, used as a case study for safe driving in the workplace in the new ***Guidelines for Employers to Reduce Motor Vehicle Crashes*** that has just been published and distributed nationally. The guidebook is offered as a key to a successful workplace traffic safety program for any company of any size delivering products and services on the nation's highways using either company or private vehicles.

Pike Industries, an asphalt paving company, has approximately 250 employees in Vermont, and operates 280 vehicles of all kinds including pickups, tractor-trailers, and dump trucks. New drivers receive classroom training and each is assigned a veteran "mentor." Veteran drivers attend annual classroom training that includes a review of federal regulations and crash avoidance techniques. All drivers attend weekly "toolbox" talks to discuss fleet safety topics.

The booklet is available to employers from:

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## Hostile Drivers Act the Same When Not Behind The Wheel

University of Minnesota researchers recently studied 710 drivers age 18 to 45, and concluded that the biggest "hostile drivers" on the road act the same when they step out from behind the wheel. The study also found that hostile people are more likely to drink and drive, take more road risks, and show more anger toward other drivers, police and construction delays.

*Inattention, speed, driving while impaired, disregard for stop signs and traffic lights, and failure to yield the right of way are the major causes of crashes on our highways.*



**REMEMBER -- BUCKLE YOUR SEATBELT  
EVERY TIME!**